



From the Chairman

We have begun 2017 with some marvellous seminars and that is how we will be continuing throughout the year of course! The summer soiree is in the planning for July, and also the conference which will be held in October, with the theme The Arts and Archives.

We are fortunate that many of our volunteers (we are all volunteers in AfL!) have remained with us for many years. We are also fortunate that when they move on, we can usually fill the gaps quite quickly. This has happened with Jeff Gerhardt stepping down as Membership Secretary, Louise Harrison has taken on that role, Sarah Radford has stepped down as Seminar Co-ordinator, and Louise Bruton is our new Co-ordinator, and Siân Wynn Jones who looked after our communications has moved abroad. Thanks from all of us are due to all of them for their work in support of AfL.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Peter Jackson for his sterling work on the Newsletter over the last 10 years. As David Mander, AfL Past Chair records, Peter's inimitable style

meant that he went out of his way to find items he thought would be of wider interest to the AfL membership and Newsletter readers, and he delivered the Newsletter 3 times a year, which over 10 years is a great achievement. This will be Peter's last Newsletter as Editor, but he has generously offered to assist with one future issue. Thank you Peter, we have all greatly appreciated your work over the years.

This is the time of year that memberships are renewed and we hope new members join us, so those of you who are already members will be receiving renewal invoices in the near future – those who have already rejoined, or who subscribe by direct bank transfer, our thanks – and do let us persuade non-members to join to receive the benefits of seminars and access to unusual speakers and topics relating to that topic which interest us all, Archives in London!

The new website will be up shortly so you will see a refreshed brand, but AfL remains the same congenial purveyor of archival events that you have always known.

Anne Barrett *Chairman* Archives for London

AfL Seminar February 2017

Mike Anson Archive Manager, Bank of England Archive. Joined the Bank in 2004 as researcher on the Bank's official history project and was previously at the Business History Unit, London School of Economics working on commissioned histories of British Rail, and the Channel Tunnel. He also spent some time as an archivist at the former record centre of the British Railways Board. Editor of *Business Archives: Sources and History* from 2004 to 2011. He has been Chair of the Business Archives Council since 2013.

Mike's very lively talk covered his involvement with business archives as a user, as the Manager of the Bank of England Archive, and as the Chair of the Business Archives Council (BAC). In respect of the latter he emphasised the availability of BAC's valuable cataloguing grants and research bursaries for business archives. He highlighted the diversity of business archives and the differing ways in which they can be used, through images and many anecdotes.

He engaged the audience by throwing in quizzes to identify where and what a business might be from some images taken at unusual angles. It was agreed that Mike was a very entertaining and informative lecturer.

One of the videos he showed was of him in the Bank's archives taking out the Bank of England's first bank stock ledger dating from 1694, a huge vellum bound volume. The video was created for the #Loveyourledgers campaign.

Seminar write-up: Anne Barrett



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London Fog

Christine Corton is the author of *London Fog: the biography*, and her talk at the AfL April seminar was on that subject.

I was living in the Stroud Green Area of north London at the time of one of the last heavy fogs in London c.1960; my mother had a position at the sonorously named North London Drapery Stores in Seven Sisters Road. It was one of those stores that had vacuum tubes, the assistants did not keep money, so when you made a purchase your money was put in a container with a receipt, this was 'whooshed' (apt word, it was the noise that the system made) up to the office where it was stamped, and the receipt sent back with any change. My mother supervised in that office. I got home from school and my father was at home: he told me to go and meet my other and walk home with her. I walked to the shop along the pavements, keeping near the walls and hedges, the fog was so thick that you could not see the kerb two yards away, and I got quite worried at one of the cross-roads as I did not find the opposite kerb as quickly as I expected, and thought I had wandered off-track; but then I found it! I got to the store and found some staff already leaving from the staff exit, one of them spoke to me and when I said why I was there said she knew my mother and that she had not left: then, looking at the fog, added "She will be glad of your company". We walked home past lines of stationary traffic on the main roads, no one could see where he were going; by contrast there was almost no traffic at all on the minor ones. I digress, you lose your sense of direction in thick fog.

London fogs were caused at least in part by the burning of coal to heat people's houses. Certainly my childhood home in Stroud Green had a coal fire in the sitting room: the bedrooms were unheated, and in cold winter nights it was not unknown for there to be ice on the inside of the windows, not just the outside. Our speaker suggested that to boost exports the better quality low smoke coal was sold abroad, and London was burning low-grade coal.

The fog recalled above was one of the last thick fogs that London suffered: the clean air act and the introduction for household fires of coke, which burnt at a higher temperature and with less smoke, eliminated what had been a problem for years. London's situation in a river valley meant that smoke from houses and factories could only flow along the river, and the prevailing westerly winds in England meant that it was blown on to the east: not for nothing was the west end the better place to live. A few years ago I was

in Mexico, and Mexico City is situated in a complete bowl, hills all around: as we left the city you could see the grey smoky air lying in the bowl, and think "Yuk, I've been breathing that". TS Eliot may have liked the smoke of London, with Prufrock's "yellow smoke that rubs its muzzle on the window-panes" that "curled once about the house, and fell asleep" like a cat (he did write *Old Possum*, famously to become a musical), but one but think the picture is romantic. Talking of which, lovers enjoyed the fogs, they could not be seen at their trysts.

The problem had of course been progressively growing worse for many years. Around 1600 seacoal was shipped to London down the coast (hence the name) from the coal seams along the banks of the Tyne. The industrial revolution increased the use of coal to power Britain's industry: indeed writers like John Nef (*The rise of the British coal industry*) have argued that the tremendous increase in the use of coal was the cause of Britain's rise as an industrial power. The statistics on the government [web](#) site shows a 3-fold increase in the use of coal in the period 1850-1900 (the statistics go no further back than 1850), and consumption continued to rise in the first decade thereafter.

The word smog was coined, from smoke-fog, in the early 20th century to refer to the really thick fogs of that period, and the word has persisted into current English, fortunately now little needed.



LAMAS Archaeology

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society organises an annual spring conference on archaeology. This year's (held on 18th March) covered recent work in the morning, with the afternoon devoted to Crossrail. Fuller reports will appear in the LAMAS proceedings, here is the editor's pick of a couple of talks.

Sugar Quay runs along the Thames just west of the Tower: excavations here have found Roman box quays dated to the year 130, or shortly after. They are right on the river front and made from oak blocks (possibly reused from another site) which were shaped and laid one atop the other, but not fixed in any way, leaving the archaeologists puzzled why they had not floated away! The blocks on the river front were held back by posts, behind them is a series of square pits. Little rubbish was found in them, suggesting that if this was used as a landing quay it was not for goods (which might be dropped) but for people. The whole quay is described as banana-shaped as it followed a curve in the river. When a new bridge was built under the Normans, the water level went up, possibly by a metre, as the flow of water coming down the Thames was impeded, so the Roman work was submerged: seasoned wood survives under water, and the speaker had pictures of the tops of posts exposed at low tide, showing how they had been eroded by exposure a water level.

The wool wharf was near here, and the importance of wool to the English economy led to a Custom house also being located nearby, although that was lost in 1666 (its replacement from 1808 also burnt down). Chaucer is known to have worked here, and one can imagine him looking out across the river, seeing pilgrims assembling in Southwark, and thinking "hmm, could write a poem about that".

A Shakespeare link (see also p8) was the work at the site of the **Curtain theatre**, located just off Curtain road, which preserves the name 400 years later. London was a crowded city, there was little space for buildings the size of theatres (which were large by the standards of the time). So many were built outside the city, with the additional advantage that they escaped the city rules. The 'new' Globe on the south bank is internationally famous: the original was located there with two other theatres, and the bear-baiting, but there were others, like the Curtain, to the north and east of the city. The surprise here was that the theatre seems to have been square, not polygonal as we had thought 16th century theatres were. The stage ran along the eastern side, and the main entrance was to the north. A nice find was a small whistle which when blown could produce a warbling sound, and might have been used for a sound effect, such as reference to birds in Rome and Juliet, known to have been performed here. There is a reference to the Curtain in an anti-theatrical treatise of 1577, and the description by the French visitor Grenade in his *Singularities of London* of 1578 (copy published by the LTS, London Topographical Society), also refers to theatres, so we can be sure it was built by this time, but when it was first constructed is not known.

St Giles: A mediaeval leper hospital that was founded here in 1117 by Queen Mathilda, (daughter of Henry I but never queen of England), and dedicated to St Giles. It can be seen, well out in the fields, on both the Agas

and Braun and Hogenberg maps of Elizabethan London (LTS again). The area was marshy at the time of the foundation, and there is a suggestion that this would help to isolate the hospital (and prevent the spread of disease) by making access difficult: a drainage ditch has been found. British History [online](#) says it became a cell of a house at Burton Lazars in Leicestershire: one wonders why such a distance. The area changed at the dissolution, but a hospital continued, switching to care for the poor as the incidence of leprosy declined. This may have helped the reputation, which the area has never entirely shaken off, of being a place for 'down-and-outs'. The street name Grape Street, that still exists to the east of St Giles, marks a vineyard that once belonged to the hospital, probably at the eastern edge of its land, as the hospital possessed much of the land north of the present St Giles High Street.

A talk about excavations at the former site of West Ham football club, and the so-called **Boleyn Tower**, that appeared on their shield, got a mention, but mainly to dismiss any notion that it had any link to Anne Boleyn!

Crossrail

The afternoon was given over to the talks on the Crossrail excavations. For those who have forgotten this is the railway line that will run from Shenfield to Reading, with branches to Heathrow, and under the river to Abbey Wood. The central section between Paddington and Stratford is underground, and the access points to the tunnels have been the cause of much disruption in London in recent months.

Given that they are tunnelling through a city that was founded 2000 years ago and has been continuously occupied for more than the last 1000 of them, it is almost inevitable that if you dig a big hole you will find something. Together with MOLA they are publishing 10 books on different sites, of which 7 were available at the time of the conference, 3 are planned.

One that interested the editor, and the subject of a talk, was the work in Charterhouse Square (I mentioned this, with a picture, in newsletter 24). It is fascinating what modern science can work out from human skeletons. One of them from the pit in Charterhouse square was said to be of a male, raised in East Anglia but having moved to London around the age of 16: he had a change of diet to include more fish around the age of 21, and he died before his 25th birthday. Quite a good biography for someone who died 600 years ago. Other skeletal remains from jaws showed dental diseases were frequent, and the wear on teeth caused by the high levels of 'grit' in poorly refined bread was noticeable.

The pit was linked to the plague: a pool of plague virus stayed in Europe, but the variety that caused the 1350 epidemic went back to Asia, whence it to Europe came again in the 19thC: Thomas Mann's novella *Death in Venice* is set at the time of its return.

A point made about the plague pits (a second one is known nearer Liverpool Street) is their orderly nature: bodies were buried separately and all on the same alignment: they were not thrown in in panic. That in Charterhouse Square had a layer of clay deposited over the first burials, possibly with the idea of sealing in the contagion; a second layer of burials was soon added.

Wills

Iron Mountain is an independent records management company that stores wills on behalf of the Probate Service, itself part of HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). They have an archive of wills back to 1858, the year in which the centralised service took over from the church courts that handled wills to that date, and there are said to be some 41 million of them, expanding at the rate of nearly 5,000 a week. If you leave a will, after you die and the will is proved, it is a public record, and anyone can request a copy of it, subject only to the payment of the appropriate fee. The company estimates it gets an average of 12,500 requests a month. Will account manager Dee-Ann Craddock said: "From the notable and notorious, anyone who leaves a will in England or Wales will have their will stored in the archive. And, as a will is a public record, anyone can order a will from the online portal. So we receive between 12,000 and 13,000 requests per month from all sorts of people, including relatives of the deceased, historians, and amateur genealogists."

Alongside those of ordinary men and women sits the will of Diana, Princess of Wales, and countless short declarations from soldiers who were killed in the First and Second World Wars. With interest in the wills of soldiers from 1914-1918 (there are now 278,000, but many are very fragile), the firm began making the wills available in digital form, and said there has been a steady interest since from people ordering documents simply by clicking online. Speaking of the wills left by WW1 soldiers, Ms Craddock said "It's impossible not to be impressed by the bravery of the young men who gave up their lives to fight for their country."

Iron Mountain has created a special facility in Birmingham to centralise and standardise records management. This Probate Records Centre has a climate-controlled environment, to store the records in optimum condition. As well as storage, their service includes retrieval and provision of copy documents against customer orders placed with the Probate Service. The retrieval service has been continually enhanced, evolving in tune with emerging technologies.

Mark Burden, Northern Probate Manager at HMCTS, says: "We've had a joint objective to provide an online ordering service for some time. This would help us better serve our customers, make records more accessible and transparent, and fit perfectly with the UK Government digital agenda."

At <https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate> there is a search form where you can look up the will of anyone of interest to you, and if the search returns what looks like a will of interest, a digital copy can be ordered on the spot for £10. When prepared the copy can be downloaded.

The Probate Service commissioned Iron Mountain to create this online portal. The task had added complexity because Probate Service records were held in different forms: "Between 1858 and 1972 every Probate Registry maintained a calendar in book form, creating ledgers listing the grants of probate issued. There was a strong desire to make these records available to the general public as a rich source of information for genealogists and those researching family histories. The soldiers' wills was a pilot to help build and test the portal.

Silvertown Explosion

I learnt, from an article in the latest SoG (Society of Genealogists) magazine, that January just passed was the centenary of the Silvertown explosion, which it describes as "the largest disaster in London in World War One - and not due to enemy bombing". Now I confess I had never heard of it, but it sounded interesting, and this column is the result of my delving. The SoG article refers to *The Silvertown Explosion* by Graham Hill and Howard Bloch, (from History Press; but the SoG library catalogue does not list a copy).

I have consulted two further books, both entitled *Silvertown, 1917*, one by Lewis Blake, the other by Michael Paris, and also drawn from the information on Wikipedia (but then who doesn't?). If you want to follow up what is here, try those sources.

The name Silvertown comes from the works of Samuel Winkworth Silver. He established a factory in the area in 1852. Before this development the area was open land, much of it marshy. When Silver moved to the area from Greenwich he established a rubber works, originally to make waterproof clothing. This later developed into the works of the *India Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph Cable Company*, which constructed and laid many submarine cables. The Brunner Mond company, founded by John Brunner and Ludwig Mond had factories in the area from 1893, including one that had been used to make caustic soda, but it was not used after 1912. In 1915 the government decided to use this site for the 'purification' of TNT for the war effort, as the buildings were seen as not needing too much work to adapt them to this purpose. The TNT manufacturing process created 'raw' TNT from coal: the raw TNT was available, but needed purifying to turn it into the material used in the high explosive shells used in WW1. This process has been described as more dangerous than the production of the raw TNT, yet this was the one to be done at Silvertown.

As the time it was a busy area with the docks. The trade coming through the docks, and the associated industries (Tate and Lyle had, and still have, a sugar refining plant in the area), made the area heavily populated. On TNT production, Lord Moulton (a mathematician at Cambridge and then a London barrister, so a man of many parts) said in 1915 "we had established a place at Rainham, which was well removed from any habitation and was well suited to the process of purifying crude TNT", but he went on to say that the capacity was insufficient. As Michael Paris says "it seems strange that Moulton should stress that the Rainham factory was 'well-removed from any habitation' yet consider carrying out the same process at Silvertown ... less than 200 yards from densely-packed streets.

In the evening of 19 January 1917, a fire caused about 50 tons of TNT to explode and turned the building into a bomb. Nearby buildings, including Vanesta's plywood factory and the oil tanks of Silvertown Lubricants caught fire while the fire station opposite and several streets of small houses were demolished by the force of the blast. The blast was heard all over London and damaged between 60,000 and 70,000 buildings.

73 people were killed and several hundred injured.

Stephen Humphrey 1952-2016

The unexpected death of Stephen Humphrey aged 64 in November 2016 has taken from Southwark its most distinguished and popular historian, who worked for his whole career as archivist at Southwark Local History Library.

Stephen was born and lived near the Elephant and Castle for the whole of his life. He attended John Ruskin Primary School, Westminster City Grammar School and studied history at Clare College, Cambridge. He held the post of Southwark's archivist from 1979 to 2010 when a clumsy reorganisation forced him to leave. Despite this unsettling experience, he continued assisting researchers, writing, speaking and becoming even more involved in local societies. He was made a Freeman of Southwark in 2012.

His priorities in his professional work were to assist readers with their enquiries, to arrange and describe the records of the three metropolitan boroughs that make up Southwark into a standard format – neatly summarised in his 1992 Guide to the archives at Southwark Local Studies Library, and to gather information on Southwark sources held in other collections.

But Stephen was foremost a very fine historian. Endlessly curious, hugely widely read with virtuosic powers of retention and recall, an incisive critical mind and an ability to arrange his argument, His range of interest was extraordinary, but focused in particular on Southwark, of course, and on the history of churches and their architecture.

As an author, his writing style was simple, direct, elegant and clear. He was widely in demand as a speaker and as a tour leader he had a dedicated group of fellow church crawlers he shepherded around the country.

Stephen's professional and private interests and energies overlapped significantly and achievements in his own time would eclipse most people's paid careers.

He was involved with numerous societies including the Ecclesiological Society, the Surrey Record Society, the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, (for over 45 years) and the Southwark Pensioners' Centre.

His books on Southwark found his widest and warmest audience, including four titles in the *...in old photographs* series and his finest and his most recent, *Elephant and Castle – a history*. It was long in the making and his most personal, in-part a lament for the now-gone landscape and community.

These achievements were complemented by warmth, generosity, kindness, modesty, humour, gentleness and politeness. Though this was part-concealed by a formality in presentation and his quiet personal life - he rarely alluded to his Roman Catholic faith and he lived with mother until her death in 2002.

In particular he was extraordinarily generous with his time for other researchers and writers and was never possessive of his vast knowledge. He influenced and improved many, many more words than he ever wrote himself and the closest he came to a negative comment was the helpfully-elastic 'unexceptionable'.

He generated affection in those who came across him and gratitude from Southwark historians present and future, who will benefit from his work.

Cataloguing

Melvil Dewey was the man who, in 1876, devised the *Dewey Decimal* book classification system that is today one of the most widely used library systems: you acquire a book, lookup its classification, and file it in numerical order (847.3 between 847.2 and 847.4!) There is even a web site (<https://mypages.iit.edu/~smart/halsey/lesson1.htm>) that teaches the basis for cataloguing. Since it started the classification has expanded to take account new areas of study — as an example there was no computer science in 1876 — and existing classifications have been subdivided; when I went to the British Library web site to get the Dewey classification of a book that I happened to have to hand (Peter Thorold's *The London Rich*), I found it to be 305.523409421: almost enough digits here for every book to have a unique code.

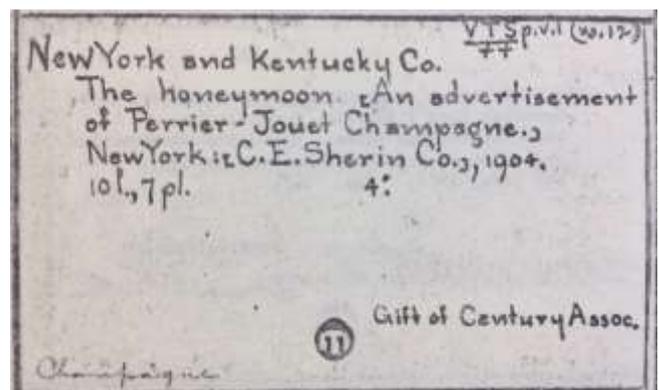
Some of the history, so far as it relates to book classification, is online at <http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/library-hand-penmanship-handwriting>, where they point out that as libraries expanded there was a need to have a catalogue so that people knew where to look. The first cards were written by hand, and this meant that the card depended on the handwriting of the cataloguer: the librarian at Boston (USA) commented on an ornate hand that "there is apt to be too much flourishing."

Although the earliest typewriters had been invented in 1867, it did not come into regular use for another 20 years, so cards continued to be written by hand. An attempt was made to define a "cataloguer's hand", which had to be easy to write (the cataloguers had to write large numbers of cards) and clear to read, and would "do away with individual characteristics."

T.A. Edison had lately been experimenting with penmanship styles in order to find the most speedy and legible type of handwriting for telegraph operators. Edison had ultimately selected "a slight back-hand, with regular round letters apart from each other, and not shaded." With this style, Edison was able to write at a respectable 45 words per minute.

Hearing this, Dewey set out a catalogue-minded mission for the group: "We ought to find out what is the most legible handwriting." This set Edison to experiment on patient librarians, library hand focused on uniformity rather than beauty. And if librarians thought they could get away with just any black ink, they could think again. "Inks called black vary much in colour," scoffed the New York State Library School handwriting guide.

Below: Example from the history web site (see above) of a catalogue card: rather tasty, champagne!



Art — Hoefnagel and Halliwell

I am indebted to the Art Fund's magazine *Art Quarterly* where I found both these items, both with a London link.

The Victoria and Albert Museum has acquired Hoefnagel's painting 'Nonsuch Palace seen from the south', which has joined National Collection of British Miniatures and Watercolours held there. It was bought with support from the Art Fund, following an export ban to prevent the work going to the USA. The Art Fund's description of the work says:

"It represents the most faithful of only six surviving depictions of the palace, which once stood in Cheam, Surrey. Called Nonsuch, as no other palace could compare with it, this ambitious building was commissioned by Henry VIII in 1538. Its towered façade, decorated with elaborate plasterwork in a Franco-Italianate style, sought to rival Fontainebleau, the residence of Henry's arch competitor, the French king Francois I. Its lavish stucco reliefs and carved slate decoration, all portrayed by Hoefnagel in exquisite detail, made the palace one of the most important buildings of the English Renaissance.

"Still unfinished at the king's death in 1547, it was purchased from Mary I in 1557 by Henry Fitzalan, 12th Earl of Arundel, who completed the palace and most likely commissioned the watercolour. The palace was later acquired by Elizabeth I in 1592 and became one of her favourite residences. It stood for nearly 150 years, but was demolished between 1682 and 1688 by Charles II's mistress, the Duchess of Cleveland, who sold its raw materials to pay off her gambling debts."

Hoefnagel (1542-1600), of Flemish/Hungarian descent, lived in France, Spain and the Low Countries at various times, visited London only briefly in 1568, which must therefore be the date of the painting. An image is on art fund's web site at <https://www.artfund.org/news/2016/12/09/victoria-and-albert-museum-acquires-watercolour>.

Islington museum was helped to buy *The Cat Screen* from an auction last September. It is a collage of images of cats made by Kenneth Halliwell, an actor, whose agent Peggy Ramsey also acted for Joe Orton, who was Halliwell's partner. The couple, who infamously defaced Islington public library books and were jailed for the crime, lived in the north London borough after meeting at RADA: the books they defaced are now part of a display at the library! The Peggy Ramsay Foundation passed the screen to the Royal Court Theatre in 1999 whence it was bought at a charity auction by the current vendor.

The four-panel screen was described as "an important part of 1960s cultural history as well as an engaging piece of art work". The museum funded the purchase with a grant from the Art Fund, a gift from an anonymous donor and smaller donations from the general public. The museum needs to undertake some conservation work, and the screen will be on display from July in an exhibition to mark the 50-year anniversary of Orton and Halliwell's deaths. They both died in 1967 when Halliwell killed Orton, and then committed suicide.

This item is also on the art fund web site at <https://www.artfund.org/news/2017/01/31/rare-acquisition-unveiled-islington-museum-lgbt-history-month>

Opera

After Art (left), opera. There was an event at QMUL (Queen Mary University of London) on the topic *Opera in the East End*, not exactly an archival subject, but it did give rise to some points of history. QMUL is so called as the Charter of Incorporation was presented on 12 December 1934 by Queen Mary, wife of George V. It has been on this site since 1956. About this date the buildings were sold to Queen Mary College, the educational wing of the former People's Palace venture, which had become a college of the University of London. All that remains of the original buildings is the neo-classical entrance block and its forecourt with a free-standing clock tower. The original Queen's Hall, described by a modern commentator as 'preposterous' was a massive barrel-vaulted, extravagantly decorated room. Both it and the smaller Music Hall (so called because it was a concert hall) sat behind the neo-classical entrance block which still remains on Mile End Road.

The event comprised an afternoon talk by three singers, Teresa Cahill, Marie McLaughlin standing in for the indisposed Dame Josephine Barstow, Robert Lloyd with David Patmore, who works in opera production. They were all students at the London Opera Centre, whose home was what is now the Troxy Cinema on the Commercial Road, Stepney. The talk was followed by a brief song recital by students, and a reception. In the evening Shadwell Opera performed Schönberg's *Erwartung* and Mark Anthony Turnage's *Twice Through the Heart* in the Octagon. (The Troxy is an interesting building in its own right, but no room here for that, look at troxy.co.uk/history/ for its history).

The Octagon was the original library of the People's Palace: it dates back to 1888 and still has many of the books in racks round the space, accessed by spiral stairs. The People's Palace was developed in the 1880s, and opened by Queen Victoria in 1887: the web site says it was "for the recreation, amusement and education of the people of the East End of London". It housed "a technical school, swimming baths, winter gardens, gymnasium and lecture rooms" but was never financially viable. The Queen's Hall & Music Hall of the People's Palace survived until it was destroyed by fire in 1931. Six years later it was succeeded by the New People's Palace on a new site.



The People's Palace in 1891

Westminster Abbey Archives

The British Records Association organised a visit to the Archive and Muniments room at Westminster Abbey, where our host was Matthew Payne, formerly an Archivist at London Metropolitan Archives. The Library and Muniment Room houses the collection of books and archival material of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. (A muniment was originally a document proving a holder's title to land: the word is now often used more loosely to refer to any document that confers or confirms rights or privileges.)

The abbey, like the Chapel of the Savoy (see newsletter 35), is a royal peculiar. This means that it is outside the jurisdiction of the bishop and archbishop, and Matthew's line of management is through his superior, to the Dean of Westminster Abbey, who reports to the Queen (in theory). Sadly this status means that the Abbey receives no income from church, state or crown, so relies on the £18 admission charge it makes for much of its income: but with something like 1.5 million visitors a year, this represents a fair income.

The abbey's foundation dates back to 960, when it was founded by St Dunstan shortly after the accession of King Edgar, as the church of a monastery of the Benedictine order. The extant cloisters reflect the monastic origins of the Abbey. The date is not completely certain (959 has also been suggested), but the foundation is certainly not as early as 693. This latter date appears in a forged manuscript in the Abbey's possession, probably from the time of Henry III. We were shown both this forged document, and the true foundation document. The 960 foundation was of a monastery which for some 100 years had around 12 monks. Then King Edward the Confessor, who was buried here in 1066, made the Abbey the royal church, and excavations in the Pyx chamber (below the muniment room) found relics datable to that time. Every subsequent English monarch, who has been crowned, has been crowned here (Henry III was crowned twice, firstly at Gloucester and then at Westminster; Edward VIII was never crowned).

Caxton had a printing press near St Margaret's church; this is the adjacent church established by the monks of the abbey, as too many local townspeople were coming to hear the abbey services. The library was dispersed at the dissolution, most of the books were lost, including those of Caxton (if it had any: there was no catalogue). One of the few books that remain from that time is the large, and beautifully decorated, Litlington Missal, named after the Abbot in the years 1362-86. The present library has been (re-)assembled since the foundation of the Abbey as a collegiate church in 1560, mainly with works of ecclesiastical history, although several deans have donated their collections to the library, and their personal interests mean that it contains some items one might not expect to find. Many of the records document the abbey's land holdings, which at one time were very extensive, covering much of southern England, and (according to the Abbey's [web site](#)), the monks' vegetable garden was at Co[n]vent Garden. Until the 19th century expansion of universities, Westminster was one of the oldest and largest libraries after Oxford and Cambridge. The Library is housed in

half of the former monastic dormitory, and the old doorways, through which the monks would have filed for the night-time services, are still visible.

After the library we moved to the muniment room, although the use of the word 'room' seems slightly inappropriate as it is an open platform looking out into the abbey. The floor tiles here are 13th century, and we were asked to walk on the carpets that protect them. Looking back as you enter the space, the doorway is surmounted by a mural of a white hart which dates to the time of Richard II, whose symbol it was. The cupboard beneath it is of a similar age. Amongst the chests used for storage here is a long oak one dated to 1159, and slightly larger and younger one, it is only C13th. The platform gives a good view across to the Cosmati pavement (named after one of the families who specialised in this type of work). The pavement dates from Henry III's rebuilding of the abbey, which swept away much of Edward's work; most of what one sees today is the result of this rebuilding.

An interesting modern development currently taking place is to convert the spaces of the triforium level into an exhibition area, which will show many of the archive's treasures. Access will be via a newly-built tower to be tucked unobtrusively in a corner of the site. When it opens, not expected to be until mid 2018, apart from the material on display, it will also give superb views of the interior of the Abbey.

Tyburn

Although not part of the visit, I cannot resist commenting on the location. The river Tyburn flows down from Hampstead through Regents Park and the grounds of Buckingham Palace. It does not flow near Marble Arch, even though the gallows at one time erected here share its name. The river then splits, the more southerly stream running along the line of Tachbrook Street, to the west of Vauxhall Bridge Road. The 'Londonist' web site claims that this branch of the Tyburn is called the Tachbrook and gave its name to the street. Reading Weinreb's *London Encyclopaedia* suggests the name Tachbrook derived from a man, Henry Wise, who owned land in the area in the early 1700s and had roots in Tachbrook (today Bishop's Tachbrook) and Lillington in Warwickshire, and the streets are named accordingly. Which of these theories is correct I do not know, but there is today an estate called Lillington Estate nearby, and several nearby roads have Warwick in their name, so Weinreb looks good!

The more northerly branch of the Tyburn itself splits, the two arms running each side of the Abbey. The land between them and the Thames was wild and full of thorns, so became Thorn-Eg, the isle of thorns. The Anglo-Saxon place name element -eg is (according to Gelling and Cole, *The Landscape of Place Names*) used for land that lies higher in wet country. It comes into modern place names as a final -y or -ey and is very common. The most famous instance of the -y ending may be Ely, the isle of eels, in Cambridgeshire. Other spellings occur, and Battersea, and Dengie in Essex, both have this origin.

David Sullivan's two books, *The Westminster Corridor* and *The Westminster Circle* are good for the early history (to 1037) to this part of London.

History of the M25

LMA staff member Tom gave a talk at the LMA on the history of the hated/dreaded/infamous (pick your own adjective!) M25. It runs for 117 miles round London, the only bit that is not classified a motorway is the Thames crossing at Dartford.

The history goes back to the early days of the motor car; as early as 1905 there was a proposal for a grid system of roads in London. There were further suggestions for road improvements in 1911, but any development of these was halted by the 1914-18 war, A proposal for a series of 4 ring roads, simply known by letters, A to D (A was the innermost) also emerged. These too were never built: route A would have gone along New Road, now Euston Road, and B was transformed into roughly the North and South circulars; ideas for the two outer rings eventually became the M25, although this was still some time away.

Things went quiet as the country recovered from the war, although parts of the north circular were constructed during the 1920s, according to some reports to provide work in a time of depression. Then in 1937 there was a Highway Development Report: by this time the outline of the North and South circulars existed, and further orbitals were proposed. No doubt work on these ideas was also interrupted by the advent of WW2. There was some planning (but no construction) of new roads during the war, culminating in Abercrombie's plan, published in 1945. This plan had five circulars, A to E, but seems to have been a more of a proposal to get people thinking than something practical. The inner rings would have involved large amounts of demolition, and the level of protest and cost ensured they were assigned to the bin.

The next plan is from the 1960s: a copy of the map is on [Wikipedia](#), it shows 4 rings, and the eventual route that it is the M25 is a combination of ring C (e.g. at Potters Bar, where ring D went right out to Hatfield), and ring D where the motorway skirts Heathrow. The motorway was built in sections, one of the first to open was the part south of Potters Bar between the A1 and the A111, partly to ease congestion from traffic to/from the A1 passing through Potters Bar and round the NE of London towards docks. A short stretch was initially opened in 1975 as the A1178: at the time of its opening it was planned as part of an M16, which was never carried forward.

There were 39 sections to the motorway, each of which involved a public enquiry: there were a total of over 700 days for these. The whole loop was finally opened by Margaret Thatcher in 1986, although as one can see with the construction of the Dartford Bridge and creation of the 4-lane sections at Heathrow, development continues.

The motorway had a design capacity of 88,000 vehicles per day, but at the time of opening the complete ring the level was 113,000, and by 2014 the levels were over 200,000, some three times the design capacity.

If you are interested in taking it further, putting M25 into the search facility of the LMA web site at search.lma.gov.uk throws up 74 results, including those of the Ramblers' Association, who tracked loss of paths.

Shakespeare's Will

Etymology and Inheritance

There were two exhibitions in London last year commemorating the death of Shakespeare in 1616: one '*Fair play and Foul*' at UCL and a second at Somerset house that looked specifically at his will. The curators of the second of these have written an article *Shakespeare's Original Will*, that appears in a recent issue of the British Record Association's (BRA) magazine *Archives* (specifically pp8-31 of the issue dated April–October 2016), an article that inspired this piece.

The reference to etymology in my title comes from the article's use of the word 'dower', which I discovered means the provision a man made for the maintenance of his wife. In etymology it is linked to the word 'dowry', what a woman brings to a marriage, and I guess her dowry was expected to form part of her dower: a 'dowager' is simply a woman, a widow, who is living from her dower. The words all trace back ultimately to the Latin *dare* (to give), which has few direct descendants in English, apart from *data* (things given), which pedants love to point out is a plural ('these data'); if you have one fact, you have a *datum*, like the Ordnance Survey datum for sea level, the base for heights on maps: but I digress.

In the article cited above, Amanda Bevan and David Foster have subjected Shakespeare's will to a variety of analyses, both physical and textual: indeed the authors extol what has been achieved through a multi-disciplinary approach, as they took contributions from people in outside fields. It is believed that Shakespeare first wrote a will in 1613 (although the article raises the possibility of an earlier, unwritten, *inter vivos* agreement), and 1613 fits with the time we think Shakespeare ceased living and working in London, and retired to his home town of Stratford; he wrote a revised will in early 1616. Whether he was ill and thought he would die shortly we do not know (for in the C16th and 17th many people wrote a will at the 'last minute'); his younger daughter Judith was about to marry, and he may have wished to provide for her.

The will that survives, TNA reference PROB1/4, is on three sheets, but from analysis of the sheets it is suggested that the middle of the three is from the 1613 will whilst the two outer sheets are new. There are annotations on the middle sheet which suggest amendments to match the provisions of the revised first page. Page 2 is far more extensively revised than the other pages, as is very apparent from the transcript in the *Archives* article.

The authors also comment on the absence of references to Anne, his wife. They suggest that this was partly out of consideration, passing to his daughters the problems of sorting out his estate and bequests, and not troubling an ageing widow. As to that famous 'second-best bed' he left his wife: the best bed would have been kept for visitors and little used, and might have been a bit uncomfortable. As Shakespeare occupied a substantial house with several bedrooms, there would have been more beds, so the second best is quite a good bed, and may even have been the bed that Anne usually slept in. No insult here.

Expansion of London City in the West and in the East.

I hope readers will agree that whilst AfL is, from its very name, concerned with archives and history, it does not hurt occasionally to look at planned developments. A meeting of the London Society back in October last was ostensibly to look at the expansion of London, especially in the west, an expansion that is almost inevitable if Heathrow gets its third runway. The expansion will place demands on local accommodation and services for the expanded workforce, and on the infrastructure for getting the employees and the increased passenger numbers in, and out to their eventual destinations.

Perhaps as a result of the redevelopment of the docklands area, followed by the Olympic site a little further out at Stratford, the east of London has seen a notable change in the last 30 years. The western edge has been left relatively unaffected, with the possible exception of changes around Heathrow.

The London Society arranged a group of short presentations under the title 'The City on the West', which suggested that this is about to change.

Other members of AfL may keep their fingers on the pulse of London planning more than I do, but I was surprised at the amount of planning which has taken place, details of which can be found online. Searching for The City on the West online will find a proposal put out from the Mayor of London's office for the development of the SW sector of London. (A similar *City in the East* paper gives thoughts on the north east sector, starting at the Olympic site in Stratford, and with emphasis on the Lee valley running north.) Crossrail-1 will provide a convenient link from there to the city. And did you know that there is talk of a Crossrail-2, which will link New Southgate (not far from the erstwhile site of Friern Barnet asylum) to Epsom or Shepperton.

It was also suggested that in the past planning had been a bit lax, that announcements had been made that an area was to be developed, whereupon developers started buying up available land and land prices shot up, putting a strain on public money needed to buy land for infrastructure: the presenters suggested that as soon as planners identified land for development, and preferably before too much knowledge had leaked out, compulsory purchase orders should be made for the land that would hold the infrastructure.

Back to the west: the Grand Union Canal runs near the area to be developed, and some of the pictures showed developments with shops on one side of the street and a waterway on the other, a waterway that might link up with the canal. One of the speakers suggested that this could lead to people getting to work by kayak: nice in summer, get a bit of exercise on the way, but what would it be like if it started snowing?

The London Society's paper – "Re/Shaping London: Unlocking Sustainable Growth in West London and Beyond" suggests a new 'Green Web' to replace the 'Green Belt'. and a West London 'Green Web' to accommodate 100,000 new homes, a new Garden City at Northolt Airport, new suburban railway and suburban densification. You can download a copy from www.londonsociety.org.uk/blog/.

Hatton Garden

I joined one of the walks arranged through LMA, this one along Hatton Garden, although it took in a number of the side streets.

Hatton Garden has long been famous as a centre of the London diamond trade, and for the theft from a safe deposit centre that took place there at Easter 2015. Sadly, apart from the glittering display of jewels in the windows of the jewellery shops, mainly at the southern end (nearest Holborn) the street is far more interesting for its history (and a couple of good pubs at the northern end), than what can be seen today.

The walk started at Holborn Circus: our guide pointed out the office in Charterhouse Street occupied by the diamond and mining company de Beers, although it is up for sale as they now do little work in the UK, their centre of operations having transferred back to Gaborone (perhaps to use the added security of Ma Ramotswa?), as Botswana is one of the world's largest sources of diamonds. The London diamond trade is largely based along Hatton Garden.

Next into Ely Place: this is so called as it housed the London seat of the bishops of Ely. The street, still privately owned, is land that was originally owned by the diocese of Ely, bishops needing a London base for their London business, such as when attending the house of Lords. Ely cathedral is dedicated to St Etheldreda, so it is apt that there is still a [chapel](#) dedicated to her tucked on the west side of Ely Place. Founded c.1290 it was used until the 1660s (the fire of 1666 did not reach here), but then fell into disrepair: By 1772 the area is described as 'slums': the chapel was ruinous in 1873, and was bought by the Catholics, who also wanted to help the poor of Holborn. Damaged again in the WW2, some of the fabric dates back to the time of Edward I (died 1307) making it one of the oldest churches in London. It is regularly open, look in if you are nearby.

The corner of Hatton Garden and Holborn was, until 1970s, occupied by the department store Gamages. It was well-known for its toy department, and for the large model railway layout that was on display around Christmas. To my great delight I saw it several times as a small boy! Mr. Gamage lived for a time near Muswell Hill, and my (elderly) Sunday school teacher recalled seeing his carriage driving across the fields as he made his way into London! West to the Gamages site, with a large Holborn frontage, is the former building of Prudential Assurance Co (no longer based there), which stands on the site of Furnival's Inn, an old Inn of Court.

It is from the ownership of the land by courtier Christopher Hatton (1540-1591) that the street takes its name: he was granted the land by the Queen. The north end of Hatton Garden is at Clerkenwell Road, where it emerges almost opposite the Italian church, not so interesting as St Etheldreda, but worth looking in.

The street's name dates back to the time of Elizabeth I, when Christopher Hatton was a in her court. The relationship between the two was close and friendly, one contemporary commenting that Hatton seemed to have ready access to the Queen. It has been suggested that there was some envy, that Hatton was attractive to the opposite sex. It is documented the Elizabeth took property from the bishop of Ely and gave it to Hatton!

Visit to Carpenters' Hall

Throgmorton Avenue runs from London Wall south to Throgmorton Street. At the southern end is the livery hall of the Drapers company (to which there was a visit 5 years ago: see issue 21), and at the northern end is Carpenters Hall. The Carpenters Company is not one of the 'big 12' and ranks no 26, that ranking being a reflection of the economic power of the company as seen in 1515. The Drapers and Carpenters own Throgmorton Avenue, which is a private, gated road: a change in its surface marks the dividing line. The two are separated by a charming garden, which has some history. In the 1666 fire the fire got as far as Throgmorton Street and destroyed the Drapers hall that was then there, but the garden acted as a fire break and the Carpenters Hall survived. What exists today is not the pre-fire hall, as the company decided to rebuild in 1876, and a new hall was opened in 1880. Although it did not suffer a direct hit during WW2, a bomb landed nearby in London Wall and hit a gas main, causing an explosion that resulted in substantial damage to the hall. The walls were left standing, and what exists today is the result of a post-war reconstruction behind the Victorian façade, so there are a few architectural oddities where things have been fitted in. The London Wall entrance to the hall is in an arcade constructed to allow the first floor rooms to occupy their original size without restricting London Wall. In a similar way, the banqueting hall extends over Throgmorton Avenue.

What of the history? It is thought that the company was founded prior to 1271 as a Master Carpenter is mentioned in city records at that date. It was definitely in existence in 1333 from which date a 'Boke of Ordinances' records its objectives. (The book suggests that the object was to be a friendly society, and notes that a brother who falls on hard time is to be paid 14d a week.) The first hall was built when, on 22 Jan 1429, the company took a 98-year lease (for 20s p.a.) from the priory and convent of St Mary's Hospital in Bishopsgate, of land with 5 cottages which it pulled down, and that is where the hall still stands. The freehold was purchased before the expiry of the lease by Thomas Smart, a past master, and he left it to the company in his will.

In the pre-fire days, London was built extensively of wood (one of the reasons it burned so easily), and carpenters were much in demand; after the fire their income declined a little, as post 1666 legislation required much more use of brick.

A master carpenter was responsible for the building, acting as today's architect and builder. London's population had doubled from 1100 to 1300. This may have been because any serf (a man who was tied to the land) who could escape and remain free for a year and a day got his freedom, and where better to hide than in the country's biggest town. The carpenters did not want these 'foreigners' working in London, they were not members of the company and took away members' work. There were disorders in London in 1309 following the death of king Edward I and the assumption of the 'weak, ineffectual and homosexual' Edward II, and the carpenters used these disorders to promote their own causes. We do not have any proof of the existence of a company at this date, the earliest is a book of Ordinances of 1333, giving the objectives of the

company. Jasper Ridley suggests there were earlier books which have not survived (if true supports the existence of the company at earlier times).

In the entrance hall a set of paintings from Tudor times is on display: the exact origins seem to be unknown, they were discovered in 1845 when some work was done on one of their buildings: the most appropriate for the site is that of Joseph sawing some wood with the young Christ sorting out some wooden staves; full-scale facsimiles were made at the time by William Fairholt.

As we know, the decade following the restoration of Charles II was interesting with war, fire and plague. The king wanted £100,000 from the city to pay for the war against the Dutch, of which the carpenters paid £300, but they were still able to fund £1500 for a new wing on the west of the hall, although some of the money was borrowed.

If you are interested in reading further, the book *A history of the Carpenters' Company* by Jasper Ridley is very informative and covers a lot of history both of the company and of the environment in which it operated,

Seminar: rebuilding Parliament

In a follow-up to her visit to speak to AfL in 2012, when she gave a talk based on her book *The day Parliament burned Down*, Caroline Shenton came back to speak again in December. Her second visit was a sequel, about the rebuilding of Parliament after the fire of 1834, which has also been the topic of her second book, *Mr Barry's War*.

Caroline said that after the first book, she had been approached to write another, and had initially wanted to write about the execution of Charles I, and the 59 men who signed his death warrant. She then found that Charles Spencer has recently written *Killers of the king* on this very subject, and there was a second book about Charles I on its way through the press. So that market was crowded, and she turned her attention to a sequel to her first book, *Mr Barry's War*, published in the autumn of 2016.

Barry is an interesting man: he destroyed his letters before he died: his son Alfred (who became bishop of Sydney in 1884, although back in England in 1889) wrote a defensive biography, too apologetic and unjust to Pugin who was Barry's collaborator on much of the project. So, the background to work on the houses of parliament has been reconstructed through any surviving letters that he wrote to others, and from sources such as the reports of evidence (of which there are over 100) he gave to parliamentary select committees during the work.

Barry teamed up with a Scot, James Walker, for one of the more ingenious parts of the work: the sequence of building required a start at water's edge in the N.E. corner (near the clock tower). How to dig foundations under water? The answer they came up with was a cofferdam: this was a solid wall, some 920 feet long, built in the river, parallel to the bank, with returns to the bank at each end, and sealed so that river water could not penetrate. When complete the water was pumped making a dry area in which the foundations could be safely dug. It took 16 months to build, but it worked and remained in place for 12 years, assisted by steam engines that ran all day to pump out water that got in.

SEMINAR REPORTS

The Kennel Club

On a cold and snowy evening in January, over 30 people gathered in the Huntley Room at London Metropolitan Archives to hear Heidi Hudson talk about her experience of introducing a Digital Asset Management (DAM) system at the Kennel Club.

The Kennel Club was founded in London in 1873 and is the leading canine organisation in the United Kingdom. It is dedicated to ensuring the health and wellbeing of dogs and since 1942 has owned and run that most famous dog show 'Crufts'. Located in Clarges Street in Mayfair, the company now has one of the largest collections of canine paintings and photographs in the world.

Prior to the introduction of a DAM system, this significant collection of visual material was disorganised and had very little accompanying information. Anyone who has ever gone through their old photographs at home has had that experience where they can't remember where or when an image was taken. This was exactly what was happening at the Kennel Club and it was causing many problems. The organisation wanted to use the images in everyday business (for example, to market an event) but were unable to search for them quickly and, most importantly, identify who owned the copyright. Furthermore digital images were kept on shared drives, where anyone in the organisation could move files or rename them.

To deal with this issue, Heidi Hudson decided to install a management system to take control and bring some organisation to these records. After much research, the company chose to use FotoWare's DAM System as they were able to customise it for their own use. Images were uploaded and important metadata added about each item such as who owns it; when, where and why it was created and what it depicts.

Heidi explained that the introduction of a DAM system is a long term investment. Significant amounts of time was spent transferring images, adding data and training staff on how to use it. Despite this, it proved to be a real asset for the organisation. The Kennel Club can now quickly search for images and identify the copyright. Staff can also access images from home which makes their work a lot more efficient.

As well as the archive, the Kennel Club is active in many areas of concern to all those who have an interest in the welfare of dogs. They operate a range of training courses, such as for breeders of dogs and for judges at dog shows, many of these are offered online through the club's web site (see link below). Breeding is of particular concern, as it involves the well-being of both mother and child: 12 courses are on offer, starting with one that addresses whether you are the right person to go in to the job!

We thank Heidi Hudson for a very interesting and informative talk. If you would like to see any images of dogs and the activities of the Kennel Club, please see www.dogimages.org.uk/. The organisation also offers tours of their headquarters and collections. More information can be found on their website: www.thekennelclub.org.uk/

Barnado's homes

From looking after lost dogs to looking after lost children! Martine King works in the Barnardo's archive, which each year receives some 2,000 requests for information: of these many are requests for information and photographs from people such as film and documentary producers, but some 500 are from ex-children.

Who was Dr. Barnado? Thomas Barnado was born in Dublin in 1845. Hearing a man called Hudson Taylor speak about missionary work in China, he was fired with a desire to help that work. He came to London in 1866 where he lived for a time, as a potential missionary candidate, with Taylor's family. They had doubts about his suitability, but while Barnado was with them he enrolled at the London Hospital to learn medicine in order to help in the cholera outbreak that hit London at the time. He never qualified, and was never actually entitled to the designation 'Dr.', although he insisted on using it.

He set up a ragged school: ragged schools were free schools aimed at educating the poorest members of a neighbourhood; this brought him into contact with Charrington (heir of the brewing company) who also worked in the area: the two men did not get on. Barnado both taught and preached in the area, as well as published a magazine 'The Christian'. This work led him to meeting, in Stepney Causeway, a child named Jim Jarvis who was sleeping rough. Jim showed him the roof-top where he spent his nights out of the sight of passers-by, and Barnado realised that there was a need to look after the physical well-being: indeed, one might point out the mantra that human-kind only starts looking at its spiritual needs when the physical and bodily ones are satisfied.

Barnado used the building in Stepney Causeway as a training centre for the boys he took in, teaching them useful skills like carpentry, metal work and shoemaking. At his marriage in 1873 a wealthy supporter gave them as a wedding present, Mossford Lodge in Barkingside, which became the centre of a home for girls in 'moral danger'. He opened 'cottages' there, and by 1920 there were 65 of them, supporting a school, a chicken farm and a laundry.

The record cards of the home have physical details of the children: a big project completed a few years ago means that there is now a record card index of all the entries, which makes responding to enquires a lot quicker. They reveal that, in Victorian times, few of the boys were more than 5ft tall, poor diet and living conditions being inimical to growth. Many have a photograph, in some cases two, one taken when the boy was admitted and another some time later, for use as propaganda to show the change the school made: but there is a suspicion that some of the 'after' pictures were taken the next day, the boy simply having been given a good 'wash and brush up'.

Our thanks to Martine King who gave the talk. She brought two books about Barnado: Gillian Wagner's *Barnado*, published in 1980, and June Rose's *For the sake of the children*.



AfL Events: Seminars

The following seminars are planned: please check your monthly email for last minute changes.

June: The Digital Panopticon: Tracing London Convicts in Britain and Australia 1780-1925, with Prof. Bob Shoemaker, Department of History, University of Sheffield, who writes:

Between the 1780s and the 1860s British criminal justice used two major punishments for its felons: transportation to Australia and imprisonment in Britain. Which was more effective in reforming convicts? Focusing on 90,000 felons convicted at the Old Bailey, the Digital Panopticon project has linked together more than fifty datasets to make it possible trace convict journeys through the judicial system and ascertain the impact of punishments on their future lives. With Tim Hitchcock, his most recent book is *London Lives: Poverty, Crime and the Making of a Modern City, 1690-1800* (2015).

July; Dr Gordon Jackson will be talking about his researches at The National Archives on his father's war time history. Fuller details nearer the time.

Short notices

Brexit: The LSE has put online a collection of posters from last year's campaign, both pro and contra, they are at digital.library.lse.ac.uk/collections/brexit/2016. There is also on this page a link to their images from the earlier 1975 referendum in which the UK voted to join by a 2:1 ratio, having been given the famous 'Non' by French president De Gaulle two years earlier.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry (to which AfL made a visit several years ago when AfL ran visits), announced towards the end of last year, that they will close the existing foundry about the time this newsletter is due out. One of the reasons cited is the value of the site,

given the increasing value of land in London for office developments and housing. Whether the owners will try to move the business to another site, or simply close it, was not clear from the material I read. The foundry was set up in the reign of Elizabeth I, although at a different location from its present site. The Whitechapel foundry was the place where our most famous bell, Big Ben, was cast. The foundry's business archive will be deposited at LMA.

Coincidentally, the Survey of London has launched a *Histories of Whitechapel* web site, which is inviting contributions from interested readers. It can be found at surveyoflondon.org/. A specific page about the Bell foundry is at surveyoflondon.org/map/feature/155/detail/

All change at AfL

Farewell from the Editor

As the chairman notes on page 1, this is my last newsletter; my first was issue 7, when I took over from Ruth Paley who had done the previous six. As this is issue 36, I have been responsible for the content of 30 newsletters, I hope you have enjoyed reading the odd bits and pieces I have included.

The board of AfL has, at the time of writing, not said anything about how or whether the newsletter will continue. The AfL web site which was looking a little out-of-date, has also undergone an update, although the URL has remained the same, so you do not need to update your bookmarks. The previous newsletters, which were on the site if you knew where to look, are now missing, so I have added them to my own AfL pages, where I have also put slightly longer versions of two items in this newsletter, and you can find an index to them at www.peterjacksonroyston.co.uk/AfL/. The items are the Silvertown explosion (page 4) and the People's Palace (page 6). If you are interested in them please take a copy as the items will not survive when I stop paying the hosting fee! *Ed.*

The editor welcomes contributions to the Newsletter and letters for publication. Please send your contribution to: Peter Jackson, Archives for London, c/o London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB.

Or preferably by email to: newsletter@archivesforlondon.org

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